

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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S/S-O :LRFLEISCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 017102 TOSEC 010126

NODIS

GUATEMALA FOR AMBASSADOR, MEXICO FOR AMBASSADOR & TODMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: SET-BACK IN THE BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS

1. AS REVIEWED IN PRESIDENT'S EVENING READING FILE, PRICE HAS GREATLY HARDENED HIS POSITION AND PROSPECTS FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT HAVE RECEDED. OPPOSITION CRITICISM IN BELIZE APPARENTLY LED PRICE TO HARDEN HIS POSITION AFTER THE BRITISH THOUGHT THEY HAD HIS ACQUIESCENCE TO THE MODIFIED PLAN OF MEDIATION. TODMAN MET WITH PRICE IN MIAMI YESTERDAY; CONVERSATION CONFIRMED NEGATIVE BRITISH REPORT. PRICE DID SAY AT END CONVERSATION THAT SOMETHING MIGHT BE WORKED OUT IF EITHER CESSION OR DIFFICULT PROVISIONS OF TREATY DROPPED. TODMAN WILL PURSUE ISSUE WITH MEXICANS AND GUATEMALANS NEXT FEW DAYS BUT WITHOUT INSERTING US BETWEEN

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ANY DIRECTLY INVOLVED PARTIES.

2. HOWEVER, WE FEEL BRITISH MAY IN DESPERATION MAKE EFFORT MOVE US INTO MEDIATION WITH LARGER NUMBER ISSUES OPEN THAN CAN REALISTICALLY BE RESOLVED IN BRIEF PERIOD BEFORE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN GUATEMALA. THUS WE RECOMMEND YOU SEND FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ROWLANDS:

BEGIN TEXT. I AM AS DISAPPOINTED AS I KNOW YOU MUST BE
WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON BELIZE. TERRY TODMAN SAW

PRICE YESTERDAY AND GOT THE SAME TREATMENT ALTHOUGH PRICE
SEEMED TO THINK SOME CESSION, BUT LESS THAN GUATEMALA
EXPECTS, MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IF DIFFICULT TREATY PROVISIONS
DROPPED. I WISH YOU THE VERY BEST LUCK IN PUTTING THINGS
BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. BUT I THINK I SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT,
WHILE WE WERE QUITE PREPARED TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN UN-
WRAPPING A HARD BOILED EGG, OUR MANY TOUCHY RELATIONS IN
THE HEMISPHERE FORCE US TO BE QUITE SURE IT IS NOT A SOFT
BOILED EGG BEFORE WE TAKE ON THAT ROLE. I WILL BE LOOKING
FORWARD TO YOUR FURTHER REPORTS AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU MAY WANT TO SLIP THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED
MEETING SCHEDULE. END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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